









# HIGH POINT

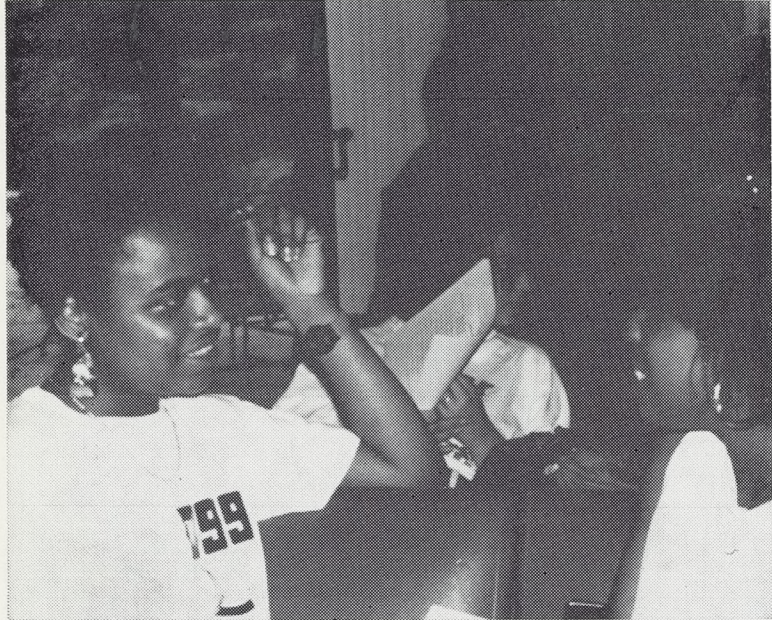
Vol. 16, No. 1

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Fall, 1991

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## Peer Group Vital To Ford Community



Minnyone David and Nicholle Worrell practice listening skills at Peer Group learning session.

by Ray Layden

An interesting school activity has been brought to the attention of the **Highpoint** staff. It appears that Sister Colleen and Mrs. Carol Leggio Carielli have been involved in an activity for seniors called Peer Group.

Along with Sister Colleen and Mrs. Carielli, there are other faculty who help, such as: Mr. Slow, Mr. McAteer, Mrs. Raffiniello, Mrs. Muscaro, and Sister Anne. They don't exactly run the program, they simply act as advisors while the seniors take control.

At Peer Group, seniors train at becoming counselors. They learn communication skills and live and work with groups. As Mrs. Carielli put it, "The whole purpose of peer group training is to foster an understanding of the role of peer group."

The seniors take part in various activities over a two-day period in Oyster Bay, where they learn to trust and respect each other.

Seniors go through this to help new freshmen who feel lost in a new, large school. The seniors help answer questions that freshmen have. If a freshman just needs or wants to talk to someone, that's what the seniors are there for. As Mrs. Cariello put it, "By doing this, the seniors help lessen the bumpy times for freshmen."

It's not sure who gets more out of this experience, the students or the faculty. Sister Colleen said, "I feel the students get more out of it. They receive that sense of helping others." Sister Colleen also added, "Peer Group is here to stay. It is vital to the Ford community: students helping students."

We can get AIDS through sex, as we all know. We can also get it by mutilating ourselves with drugs (I.V. needles) or by getting blood transfusions. They are checking the blood now, but it's sad they waited until the lives of so many innocent people were lost, like Ryan, that little boy who died from a transplant years ago.

The babies of HIV positive mothers are the most innocent victims of this disease. I think more people should be aware of that, because if you get AIDS, you're not only hurting yourself, you're hurting others as well.

Some people say, "What about condoms, don't they help prevent AIDS?" "I feel the condoms are not that reassuring, and if you need one, you probably don't need to have sex anyway. Why risk getting AIDS if you don't have to?"

## A.I.D.S. Sterotyping Fading

by Georgette Brown

AIDS—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome: We probably ask ourselves how it all got started.

Well, one theory is that it all got started among homosexuals nearly a decade ago. To date, at least 50,500 homosexuals have died from AIDS, with a minimum of 82,500 already infected with the HIV virus.

I used to think it was God's judgment, because it could be when you violate God's laws, there are consequences you have to face.

There are laws of nature, of gravity and other laws. Like laws of nature, when we destroy the rain forest, we have to face the consequences. We're messing up our ozone layer and reaping the consequences: this welting heat or acid rain.

The Science Department of Bishop Ford High School is hosting the Annual Techniques Meeting of the New York Biology Association in the bio lab wing on Friday, November 22 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

## College Fair Held Oct. 21

by Raymond Ng

On October 21 the Bishop Ford college fair took place. Many colleges and universities from New York were there, giving information, pamphlets, and other necessary forms to answer your questions about their facilities. And if you had any other questions, certified personnel representing the schools were there to help.

The fair took place in the gym. Also, some of the armed forces were there to answer questions.

Bishop Ford Senior sweat shirts are available in the Student Activities Office.

**Gobble! Gobble!**

Don't forget to order your VIDEO YEARBOOK! See Mrs. Rollo in the Student Activities Office.

Price: \$32.95



Senior Peer Group leader in training participates in trust walk at Oyster Bay meeting.

## Stomach Trouble

by Raymond Ng

"Cafeteria food is awful!" is what is often heard. Yet, no one thinks of what the staff has to work with. It may not necessarily be the lunch staff's fault, it may be just the material.

I personally feel the food is not bad. I know it may not be gourmet, but at these prices, be realistic! If people want better food, they may have to pay more money.

Until people are willing either to pay more or to stop complaining, this problem with the food will continue.

## Getting Z's Instead of B's

by Elizabeth Fuentes

Did you ever go to school and take subjects that you thought were so boring and seemed to last forever? Well, I know I did, and it's not the subject itself that's boring, it's the teacher who's teaching it.

Learning has to be made fun. If teachers made their lessons fun, more students would pay attention, would want to learn, and would get better grades. Also, the day would go by faster, because, as the old saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun."

Teachers make the subject what it is. If they're boring, the subject is boring, if they're fun, the subject is fun. I used to think social studies was a very boring subject . . . until now. My social studies teacher, Mr. Sued, is a really good teacher. When he teaches, he is loud, clear and not boring. He also makes an effort to get to know his students' names. That shows the students that he is interested in them and wants to get to know them.

So when you start doing poorly in a subject you used to be so good in, take into consideration that it might be your teacher's fault as well as yours.

**RECYCLE!**

Place your empty soft-drink cans in the proper receptacles in the cafeteria.



Tanya Glenn, Chris Regina, Raymond Olan, Omar Ventura, Michelle Competelli, Nicholle Worrell and Joe Scamadella display the canvas they produced as a group during Peer Group leader training.



# Crown Heights Boils Over: Two Different Views

by Brandon Broady

On the mid-summer night of August 21, 1991, a station-wagon going past the normal speed limit on a public street careened onto a sidewalk. The car hit two pedestrian children who were playing at the time. They were a boy and a girl; the boy died and the girl was injured.

If you have never heard of this accident, then you might say or feel that it was very unfortunate. But it could have happened anywhere. That's just it: the complications come in **where** the accident took place. It happened in a split community, where African-Americans line one side of Eastern Parkway and Jews live on the other side. But the situation becomes more complex: the driver of the stationwagon was a strict Jew, and the children were black.

Why would a civilized community riot for five complete nights over an **accident**? I emphasize the word "accident." No matter what types of ethnic groups are involved, there must be a few other reasons why the community rioted. I mostly blame the media for not reporting the whole story. So I ask that you do not make up your minds until you have heard the story, from all sides, what happened that fatal night.

If nothing happened but an **accident**, then why all the retaliation against one another? Who's lying, who's not? What's hiding?

I believe that the tensions of a riot have been in Crown Heights for months, maybe even years. The accident that happened that night was just a spark that lit a fire waiting to start.

One of the most prominent reasons I have heard that the riots took place is because of the action that was taken in an already dangerous situation. The children, I heard, were not helped. The Jewish ambulance that supposedly got to the scene of the accident first did not help the seriously injured children first. Instead, they went to the driver's aid, who could not have been very hurt, if he implies that he tried to help the youngsters from the car. The Jewish ambulance left with the driver and left the children for the second public ambulance.

The second reason I have heard that the riots took place is because of the police. Why wasn't this accident recorded properly on the police record? Were they escorting the driver past the normal speed limit, or were they covering up for him?

The driver insisted that this was an accident; he accidentally stepped on the acceleration pedal instead of the brake. Why did he hide instead of giving himself up? Why did not the police simply take him down to the station to record his story properly? Instead, he was free to go. You and I know that if it had been an African-American, especially a male, then he would have been taken to the police station and, chances are, booked.

All through the riots, mainly blacks were arrested. I do believe it was wrong for them to retaliate by killing the Jewish man (if they did), because two wrongs do not make a right. But why were not Jews arrested?

These questions bother me and bring me to one specific question: "Do Jews receive preferential treatment?" Many people have their own opinions, and I respect that, but I believe Jews do. For example, before David Dinkins was in office and he administered the new protection program, I remember seeing two cop cars parked on a Jewish block for several days and nothing was happening in the area at the time. Another example that they receive preferential treatment was the acquittal of the Jewish driver; he was able to leave the country. The case is still being investigated and chances are he will be asked to come back to court. I believe if he were any other race, black, white or Hispanic, he would not have been permitted to leave America; fearing for his life had nothing to do with it.

The Crown Heights accident has taken on a new form of destruction, the political kind. I will tell you one thing, I will still support Mayor Dinkins. Why? Because I still believe in him, and what he has done so far, for the police program is pretty good. Dinkin's job is hard, and even harder because of his color. We must realize that in one or two years New York has gone into an economic and social slump. But how can that be? We must have been in this situation before Dinkins came to office. Why did not any of these problems get spotted when Koch was in office? I believe they swept this mess under the City Hall rug.

Mayor Dinkins has been ridiculed for his performance in the Crown Heights situation and for the position the City is in (economically and socially). I do agree sometimes Mayor Dinkins does not take enough action, given the amount of power he has. He gives great speeches, but the words "a beautiful mosaic" will not change anything. Maybe I feel this because of the way the media portrays him in our eyes as a little whimpy. Koch does not make this any better with his comments on Good Day New York once in a while.

Read between the lines and support David Dinkins, because he is trying his best. The way things look, another black mayor may not get into office.

by Georgette Brown

In August, 1991, a very unfortunate accident happened in Crown Heights. A Hasidic driver, Yosef Lisef, struck two children, killing one (Gavin Cato), age 7, and his cousin.

This incident rapidly sparked a clash between Hasidics and blacks. There were really no recent racial sparks in Crown Heights, but because the life of a boy was taken, racial tension was sparked.

I really think that the blacks in Crown Heights should stop and think about the feelings of the Hasidic driver. He struck two kids, killing one of them. I believe that anyone who kills a person this way doesn't feel very proud of himself.

I would like to know what the blacks would do if a black driver struck and killed an Hasidic child. Would Jews respond to it the way the blacks did?



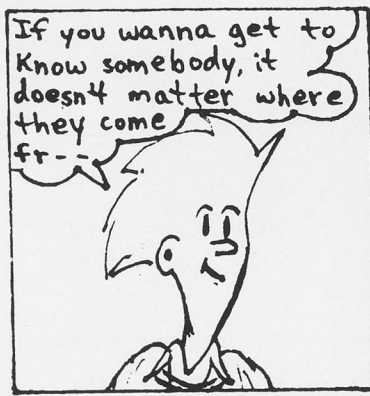
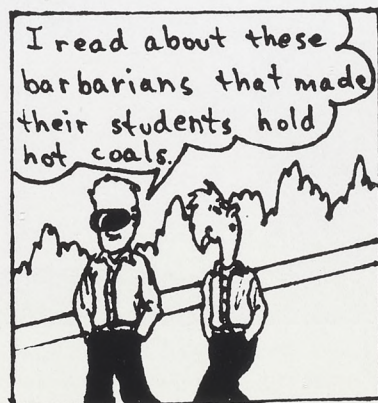
## "Jungle Fever"

by Karen Nikoloudakis

No one should be able to tell someone whom they can or cannot love. The color of a person's skin shouldn't diminish what is inside. If two people care about each other enough to date, society should not look upon them in scorn but accept their choice.

Adults are constantly telling teenagers to grow up and take on some responsibility. Well, wouldn't you think it's enough to be able to choose a person so different from you and see something you like about him/her. That, in itself, would take a great deal of maturity.

But, does anyone ever have the ability to do that? Maybe so. The choice is up to you.



## Flashback: Uniform Protest: April, 1991

by Jere Artus

In April of 1991, almost the entire senior class walked out to protest the uniform for seniors. Their action was a successful one; a lot of students supported the walk-out. Then the senior year graduated, so it's a new school year with new seniors. Now what?

Now it seems that the senior protest of 1991 to rid senior year of uniforms will have been in vain unless something is done.

One idea is to let seniors wear regular clothes in the spring term of the year. This seems to be a very practical idea. First, the spring term of the school year is when the weather gets extremely cold or warm. Secondly, it's only half a year, and by this time most seniors are working, so they can probably afford their own clothes. Thirdly, it will appear as a freedom for seniors. It will also appear as a freedom worth earning for many underclassmen. It will serve as an incentive for underclassmen to make it to senior year.

Personally, I hope something can be done about this issue of uniforms. If nothing is done, then the senior protest of 1991 will just fly off into the wind, never to be remembered.



HIGHPOINT  
Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School  
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Brooklyn, New York 11215

Staff: Gorgette Brown, Raymond Ng, Elizabeth Fuentes, Ray Layden, Brandon Broady, Karen Nikoloudakis, Jere Artus, Salvatore Pipitone, Jennifer Cruz, Vincent Lijoi, Jason Peckis, Clifton Regis, Dina Selfridge, Gerald Augustin, Kabrina Murrell, Nancy McManus, Whitney McCoy.

PRINCIPAL ..... Bro. Luke Nawrocki, O.S.F.  
ADVISOR ..... George A. McKay

David Larsauri of home-room 205 will represent the United States in Budapest in an international Karate contest.

Go get 'em, Dave!





## Cindy Crawford Must Die!

by Dina Selfridge

You know we're living in a sick society when the goal of hundreds of thousands of young women isn't to be doctors or lawyers, isn't to be president, but to be, **ick**, models.

Of course, most of them never expect to measure up. They're never quite pretty enough. In their eyes, their hips are always too wide, legs too short, waist too large, lips not full enough...

What causes females to have such negative opinions of themselves and their bodies? It comes from the very women they try to design themselves after. Cindy, Paulina, Milla—our culture views them as some kind of goddesses, "models" for all to take after. Cosmopolitan magazine's list of top twenty dieting tips has become the new bible, the gyms some kind of new wave churches.

This may sound very dramatic, but that's only because it is. Society (a male-dominated society) keeps brainwashing us with images of what the so-called "perfect" woman is supposed to look like. So if you don't have Ms. Crawford's physique, you are made to feel like there's something wrong with you.

In a recent study of high school girls, 53 percent were unhappy with their bodies by age 13. By age 18, 73 percent were dissatisfied. There are approximately one million anorexics and bulimics in every year.

I don't know about you, but I have absolutely no respect for a profession that succeeds in doing nothing but making millions of girls feel miserable about themselves. Women everywhere should reclaim control of their bodies and stop letting society dictate what they're supposed to do with them.

Besides, in an interview I saw on television, Cindy Crawford herself even admitted to being insecure about her looks. Doesn't that tell you anything?

## Add One Minute To Time Between Classes

by Ray Layden

The everyday burdens of a high school student are very stressing. Now, with the start of a new school year, the stress comes back. Trying to keep high grades, taking good notes, and being able to run from class to your locker and back to your next class in a maximum of three minutes is very difficult.

This becomes a problem for many students since the new demerit system is in play. The new demerit system gives the teacher the option to mark you late if you come to class after the bell rings.

I feel this only creates chaos in the first few minutes of class because the teacher has to mark you absent if you're not there when he/she looks. If after the bell rings you walk in he/she has to erase absent and mark late.

If a single minute were taken off each period, the school would be able to extend class changing to four minutes from three, and still have two minutes left over to use for homeroom, third period, or just to cut out of the school day.

A minute may not appear to help matters much, but if you were really to think about it, you would see not only fewer students coming to class late, but classes would start more promptly.

What's your opinion? Drop a line to **Highpoint** and let us know.

## Movie Review: The Commitments

by Dina Selfridge

As one cast member told a reporter about **The Commitments**, "It's captured Dublin like I've never seen it before." Well, I've never seen it before either, but after watching the movie, I am more than happy to take his word for it.

**The Commitments** is about a group of young Irish men and women who start a soul band, a really good soul band, much better than all the trash that Top 40 keeps dishing out. The lead singer, Andrew Strong, has an incredible voice.

The acting, which is done by an entire cast of unknowns, is probably the main reason the film comes off so realistically.

The only problem with the movie is the thick, heavy Irish accents. An entire scene went by while I sat there in total confusion. But, for the most part, you'll live.

**The Commitments** is definitely worth paying seven bucks for. While you're at it, check out the soundtrack too.

## The World According To Garp

by Karen Nikoloudakis

This book tells the life of T.S. Garp, from before his conception to after his death. The bastard son of feminist Jenny Fields and Technical Sergeant Garp, he had a hard time getting into the light on his own; yet, when he does, he shines.

This book travels through his life of emotion in a whirlwind. I really enjoyed it.

Also, the movie didn't come close to how vivid a picture this book leaves in your mind. You have to read it to believe it.

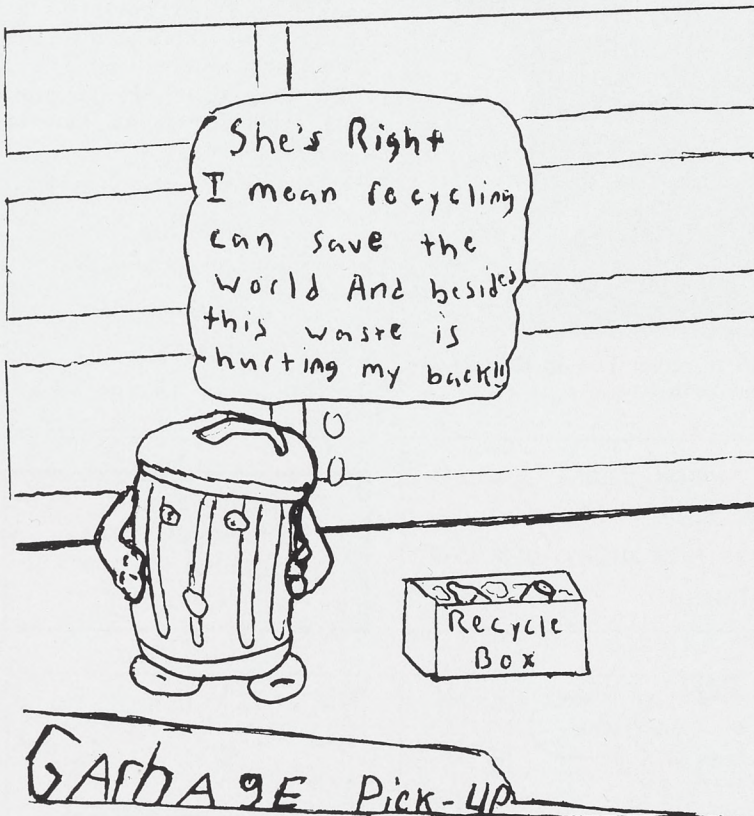


REMEMBER

OUR VETERANS

November 11

## As Environment Decays, We All Suffer



by Jennifer Cruz

A serious problem or a new style? With all the hype to recycle used paper products, save water, etc., I wondered what American teens really feel about saving the planet. I talked to one student who thinks people don't take it seriously. "When it comes down to it, nobody does anything about it," she said.

"Most people blame the government," says Naomi Cruz, a worker at the Environmental Protection Agency, "But what the people don't understand is the people are the government," she explains.

So, if nobody is doing anything, where is the blame?

Is the blame on the people, government or industry?

She says, "The blame is really on industry; they're too advanced. Industries and people don't look at the whole picture."

But if you really think about it, aren't they helping? Didn't they stop aerosol sprays?

By creating or solving one problem, they're ruining something else.

So what do our students think? "It's not just up to the people, government, and industry, it's up to all of us."

Rena McKenzie, a freshman, says, "People have to want to have clean air; they should care," she says.

## Book Review: Defcon One

by Jere Artus

It's the early 1990s. Glastnost has failed. The Russian economy is near collapse. Gorbachev has been overthrown, and his hard-line successor will do anything to maintain his country's power. Now, the Soviet Union is ready to launch the "first strike" in what may be World War III.

This book, **Defcon One** by Joe Weber, shows a very frighteningly real scenario of World War III, even in today's world. The book mentions true events in the world, from the Challenger disaster in 1986 to the Gorbachev visit to New York City in 1988, and many other events leading up to the 1990s. The mix of these events, put together with a possible nuclear showdown scenario, makes **Defcon One** seem very real.

Another great aspect of **Defcon One** is Joe Weber's knowledge of today's politics and diplomacy to the military machinery of both the United States and the Soviet Union. **Defcon One** shifts from the White House, to the Kremlin, to Navy F14s, to aircraft carriers poised against Soviet Mig-29s and Backfire bombers carrying nuclear-armed cruise missiles.

Tom - Clancy - thriller - type readers may find **Defcon One** a scenario which will take them to the edge and back. Personally, I found **Defcon One** a high-speed, edge-of-the-seat, page-turner. Joe Weber is a definite thriller of the 90s.

## Movie Review: Dogfight

by Vincent Lijoi

This movie review is for students who love comedies and would like to see one on a weekend after a hard week at school to relax and have a good time.

The name of the movie is **DOGFIGHT**. It's about four macho marines who try to have a contest among them to see who has the ugliest date. Lily Taylor, who is one of the stars of the movie, makes obvious the inner beauty of the overweight would-be singer. She is able to convince the Vietnam-bound marine, played by River Phoenix, to treat her with respect.

It turns out to be a gentle movie about boys learning about girls and the feelings they have. Unfortunately, the movie is only playing in Manhattan, but it's certainly worth the ride. I recommend it highly.

The following students will be honored at this year's Academic Awards Dinner on November 13. These students ended the 1990-1991 school year with an average of 95%, with no grade lower than 90%.

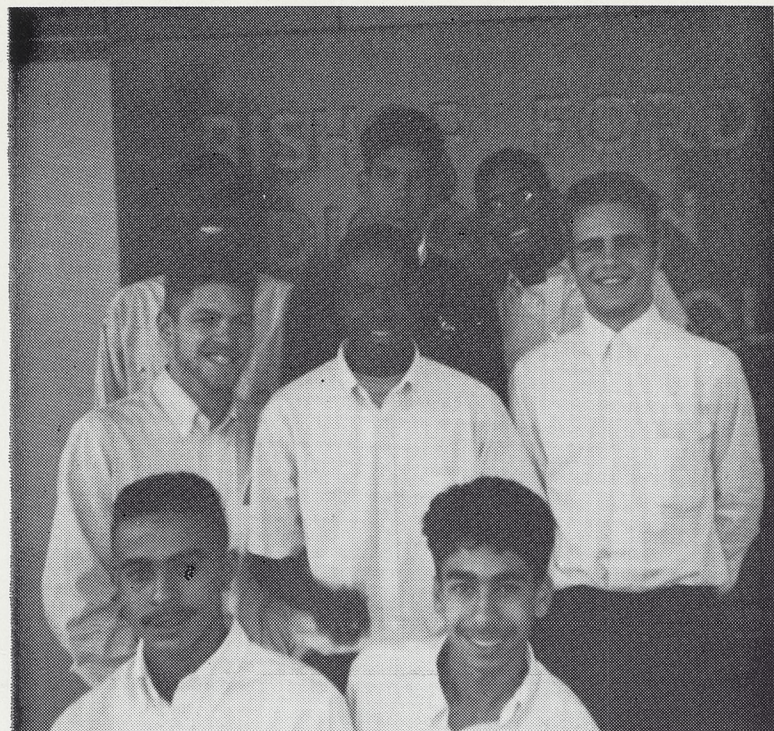
### PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Aisha Awad	Seung Lee
Theresa Falco	Nancy McManus
Laura Frank	Christopher Regina
Maryellen Gambino	Lisa Romano
Janel Gugliotta	Jennifer Selfridge
Marta Koziorzebska	Terrence Shashaty
Dominic Lazaro	

Participate in the Thanksgiving Canned-Food Drive! Please place your donations of canned food in the box in the main lobby.

Join the BIG BROTHER/  
BIG SISTER PROGRAM!  
See Cathy Driscoll or Joe Giammarino.





Boys' varsity track team, top row, left to right: (Capts.) Scott McLeod and Ahmen Harris, Simon August. Second row: Chris Gonzalez, Antonio Wright, Danny Incantolopo. Third row: (J.V. team) Bruce Rosado, Larry Medina.

### CONGRATULATIONS

To the freshman boys' track team for winning the Brooklyn Championship at Prospect Park this fall.

## Girls' Team Prepares For Success

by Brandon Broady

The Bishop Ford girls' track team, led by Mrs. Vasquez, are preparing for great success. Mrs. Vasquez, a very humble woman, guided me to the team captains for a private interview. The team captains for the Bishop Ford girls' track team are Denise Francis, Yocelin Rijo and Viviana Barthelemy.

They are very supportive of each other and their twenty-four runners. The very high-spirited team plans to go far. How far? To make it to the State Championship and the Golden West in California. The captains have been on the team for four years; no doubt, they are good leaders.

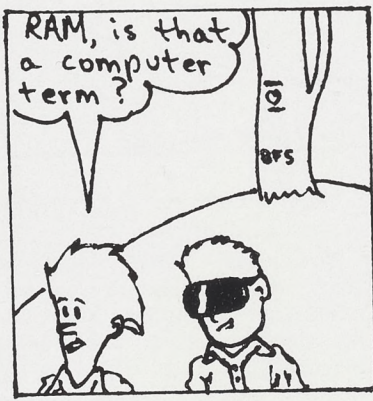
Viviana Barthelemy is the high-spirited crazy one, who is the demander and the pusher. Yocelin Rijo is the hard worker, the advisor, and very cheerful. Denise Francis is the intellectual one, the serious runner, and the worrier. No doubt, with this combo, the girls track team will go far!

But they still need our support, especially at the race in Prospect Park.

See the  
Chalk Circle Players'  
production of  
RUMORS  
December 13 and 14

Senior/Faculty  
Christmas Party  
December 20, 1991  
Prospect Hall

The Bishop Ford Boys' track team remain number one in New York State, after coming in first at the Brown University meet and the Manhattan College Invitational.



### COME ONE, COME ALL!

COME OUT AND JOIN THE "INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY" MODERATED BY MR. QUATROCHI. LEARN ABOUT YOUR CULTURE AND THE CULTURES OF OTHERS. BRING YOUR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS ON HOW TO CELEBRATE OUR MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT BISHOP FORD. ENRICH YOUR SCHOOL THROUGH YOUR ETHNIC BACKGROUND.

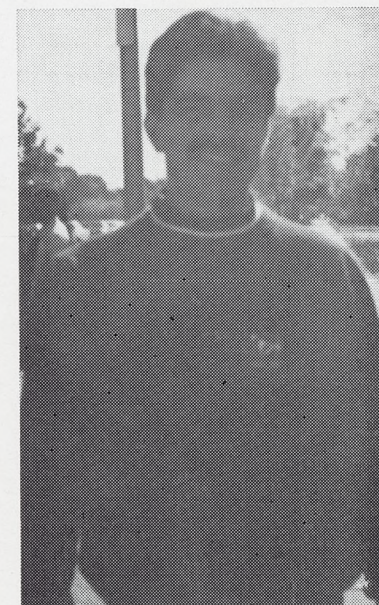
## Boys' Team On A Roll

by Brandon Broady

The Bishop Ford boys' track team, led by Coach Vasquez, are already jet-lagging other teams and leaving them behind on the starting line. They have come in first place in two invitational meets. They were the Guilderland and the A.F.K. Sterling. In the team's high hopes, Coach Vasquez believes they have the talent and the ambition to repeat winning in the City Championship and get the state title.

You might wonder who leads the Bishop Ford boys' track team as captains. They are: McLeod, Ahmed, and Harris. We wish them, with Coach Vasquez, a successful season and victory for Bishop Ford.

Coach Vasquez expects a lot if you are an athlete on his team. He expects you to be at practice everyday, to keep up your grades, and to live up to the name of a Bishop Ford athlete. He expects the student body and faculty to be very supportive.



Coach Louis Vasquez

## Too Many Classes Are Too Large

by Gerald Augustin

How many students in this school have found themselves in classes that are overcrowded? Some classes have so many students that teachers are having a hard time remembering everyone's name. The teachers must find it difficult to teach those classes, because they're splitting them up into two groups, each meeting three times a week. Many teachers are not happy about the situation, and they want something to be done about it.

Many students are complaining that they're not getting the attention they need to succeed in this school. As a student put it, "It bothers me! Sometimes seeing all these kids in the classrooms can be a distraction." Some students have tried changing classes, only to find out that they either can't change or the other classes are just as crowded.

When most of us joined this school, we knew it was a big school, but we were counting on a personal education, which we got. The classes then were smaller and the teachers could give us personal attention.

What happened this year? Does any of this have to do with the number of teachers laid off last year? Our parents, who are paying a great deal of money, also need answers. The tuition rises every year, yet teachers get laid off. What kind of budget is this school operating on?

We students, and especially our parents, need answers, and we need them now. I hope that the students will demand answers of whoever's responsible, because their education is at stake.